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William Kalsbeek Tulip Festival Research Collection

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Finding Aid

WILLIAM KALSBECK

TULIP FESTIVAL RESEARCH COLLECTION

2012 – 2016

RA 1.3.5

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Introduction

The William Kalsbeek Tulip Festival Collection documents the planning, research, and resources used by Kalsbeek in the writing of his [*Celebrating our Dutch Heritage: The Story of the Orange City Tulip Festival*](#). [Orange City, IA:] Friends of the Festival Foundation, 2015. The material consists in hardcopy and digital forms. Hardcopy items include an unabridged typescript copy of “Celebrating our Dutch Heritage”; a largely complete collection of Orange City Tulip Festival (OCTF) brochures, mid-1950s-2015; and various notes and documents used in writing *Celebrating our Dutch Heritage*. Digital items include a digital version of the unabridged book; texts of 3 articles written for the *Sioux County Capital-Democrat*; an Excel spreadsheet (Events by Year Array) that lists what events happened during the OCTF in what year; over 7,000 digital photos and scans; 21 audio files of interviews of individuals and focus groups; and notes on the interviews. Collectively, this material provides evidence for the origins and development of the Orange City Tulip Festival from the mid-twentieth century into the early-twenty-first century. Indirectly, the collection shows a major way in which a Midwestern town adapted its ethnic origins for ongoing uses for local identity, community, and economic vitality.

Size: 66.5 cm & 17.9 GB

Provenance: William D. Kalsbeek created this collection. He donated them to the Northwestern College Archives and Special Collections in February and March, 2016.

Restrictions: The donor reserves all rights to intellectual property and copyright for the manuscript “Celebrating our Dutch Heritage” and supporting notes.

Copying: No copying or photography without permission from the Director of the Library.

Permission to Publish and Citations: Permission to publish material from these archives must be requested of the Director of the Library and William D. Kalsbeek. Permission to reuse content from the audio files may also require permission of those interviewed. Kalsbeek can be reached at bill_kalsbeek@unc.edu, 1323 Lutz Ave., Raleigh, NC 27607, or 107 1st St. NW, Orange City, IA 51041. Citations should include the following information and acknowledgements:

[Identification of items]; William Kalsbeek Tulip Festival Collection, [box number or digital file, as relevant]; RA 1.3.5; Northwestern College Archives and Special Collections.

Processing Notes: This finding aid was completed in April 2016 by Doug Anderson.

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Historical Notes (parts adapted from *Orange City*, by Doug Anderson et al.)

Orange City was founded by Dutch American colonists from Pella, Iowa in 1870. It was not until the 1930s, however, that the town began what became the Orange City Tulip Festival (OCTF).

Local clubs sponsored an annual tulip show starting in 1933. The newly organized Orange City Chamber of Commerce in 1935 supported expanded tulip plantings in town, and in 1936 they led in creating the Spring or May Festival. Over a single day (May 14), the festival featured (besides tulips) a parade, a costume contest, window displays, and an evening concert by the Sioux City Symphony Orchestra. Some 3,500 visitors reportedly came for the day.

With hearty public support, the festival was staged again in 1937 with the addition of not only more tulips but also a festival queen. In 1938, the OCTF became a two-day event, with a locally produced musical program presented in the evening. World War II demands cut the 1942 festival back to one day, and the event was put on hold between 1943 and 1946. When the OCTF resumed in 1947, the celebrations soon grew to three days on the third weekend in May. Regular events include parades, street inspection and scrubbing, Dutch folk dancing, ceremonies with the festival queen and court, and an evening musical.

Orange City's festival has become a way for the town's citizens to celebrate a Dutch identity that is intended to be inclusive and unifying. Bill Kalsbeek grew up in Orange City and with the Tulip Festival. His father, Gerard Kalsbeek, was the festival's Town Crier from 1950 until 1978. In 2012, Bill agreed to research and write a history of the OCTF for its 75th anniversary (2015).

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Related Materials

For William Kalsbeek's book on the OCTF, see [*Celebrating our Dutch Heritage: The Story of the Orange City Tulip Festival*](#). [Orange City, IA:] Friends of the Festival Foundation, 2015.

There are other OCTF archival materials under the RA 1.3 numbering, such as The Tulip Festival Scrapbook Collection (see [finding aid](#)).

For online photographs and documents representative of the holdings of the Northwestern College and Special Collections, see the Orange City Tulip Festival digital collection on NWCommons: <http://nwcommons.nwciowa.edu/tulipfestivalcollection/>.

For other studies of Orange City, the OCTF, and other Dutch American festivals, see these items:

- Anderson, Doug, Tim Schlak, Greta Grond, and Sarah Kaltenbach. [*Orange City*](#). Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2014.
- Schoone-Jongen, Terence G. [*The Dutch American Identity: Staging Memory and Ethnicity in Community Celebrations*](#). Amherst, NY: Cambria Press, 2008.
- Vander Stoep, Arie. [*History of the Orange City Tulip Festival*](#). [Orange City: typescript by author, 1973?].

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Arrangement and Series Description

Series 1, Book & Digitized Material: The published book cut text and photographs from what Kalsbeek wrote. This series contains an unabridged typescript hardcopy text; a 2015 DVD describing and promoting the OCTF; 2 DVDs of photographs of the OCTF; and the digital files of documentation, scans, photos, and interviews gathered and used by Kalsbeek (all on NWC Archives Server and also a flash drive).

Series 2, Hardcopy Notes and Sources: Kalsbeek's working and writing notes are in this series. A large portion of the series consists of OCTF Steering Committee minutes. An interview transcript, copies of earlier histories of the festival, brochures, programs, newspaper clippings, photographs, buttons, and other miscellany make up the remainder of this series.

SERIES 1, BOOK & DIGITIZED MATERIAL			
BOX	UNIT	CONTENTS	DATES
1	spiral bound	"Celebrating our Dutch Heritage: The Story of the Orange City Tulip Festival (Research Notes and Full Text with Additional Visual Inserts)" by William D. Kalsbeek	Feb. 2016

	DVD	Tulip Festival video, by Orange City Chamber of Commerce	2015?
	DVD	Tulip Festival photographs by Art Kalsbeek	2012
	DVD	Tulip Festival photographs by Ken Fry	2014
	flash drive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audio files (21 + 2 on Kalsbeek Kash & Karry) • Capital-Democrat articles (3) • Scans & photos (7063) • Unabridged “Celebrating our Dutch Heritage” pdfs • Chapter & section word count (Excel spreadsheet) • Events by Year Array (Excel spreadsheet) • Notes of Focus Group meetings 	2014-2016
NWC Archives Server	RA 1.3.5 folder (17.9 GB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audio files (21 + 2 on Kalsbeek Kash & Karry) • Capital-Democrat articles (3) • Scans & photos (7063) • Unabridged “Celebrating our Dutch Heritage” pdfs • Chapter & section word count (Excel spreadsheet) • Events by Year Array (Excel spreadsheet) • Notes of Focus Group meetings 	2014-2016

SERIES 2, HARDCOPY NOTES & SOURCES			
BOX	UNIT	CONTENTS	DATES
1	binder	Writing Notes	2014
	binder	Working Notes	2013-2014
	binder	OCTF Programs & Brochures	1953-2015
	bag	OCTF buttons	
2	folder 1	Minutes, OCTF Steering Committee	1971-1972
	folder 2	Minutes, OCTF Steering Committee	1972-1973
	folder 3	Minutes, OCTF Steering Committee	1973-1974
	folder 4	Notes from OCTF Steering Committee	1974
	bound	Minutes, OCTF Steering Committee	1997-2001
3	folder 1	Arie Vander Stoep & Marlys Franklin Histories of OCTF	1962-1994
	folder 2	D. & M. Vander Wel interview by T. Schoone-Jongen	2006
	folder 3	Dutch Dancing material from Marcia Zwiep	
	folder 4	Kalsbeek family OCTF news accounts & miscellany	1938-1993
	folder 5	Scanable OCTF images, miscellaneous	1941-1960s?
	folder 6	Historical OCTF items, miscellaneous	1954-2015
	folder 7	OCTF miscellaneous	2014